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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: N/Y/A
KAZUMA SATO et al.)
: Group Art Unit: 2161
Application No.: 09/781,162)
:
Filed: February 13, 2001)
:
For: EXPANDABLE MANAGEMENT)
METHOD AND SYSTEM : March 17, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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GROUP 3600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,305,199
U.S. Patent No. 5,715,496
U.S. Patent No. 6,011,937

EP 0 429 056
EP 0 715 221
EP 0 813 120

Cheng, Kuangti, "A Method of Tracking Color Laser
Printer Consumables Usage", Research Disclosure
#XP-000893286, 42718, pp. 1413-1444, Nov. 1999

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report, which is dated December 22, 2003, is enclosed.

An English-language abstract for EP 0 813 120 (which is in French) is enclosed. The European Search Report indicates that U.S. Patent No. 6,011,937 is an English-language counterpart; a copy of this patent is enclosed and it is listed on the attached Form PTO-01449. The Examiner is directed to the European Search Report for a concise explanation of relevance for each of the documents listed above.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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